

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

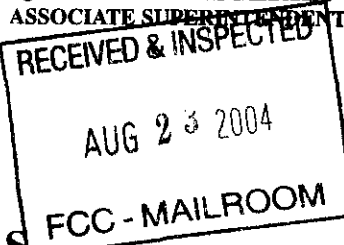
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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Request for Review of SLD decision

CC Docket No. 02-6

Reference: Northampton School District

Billed Entity Number: 120057

Form 471 Application 434124

Funding Year: 7/1/2004 – 6/30/2005

Date of Request: August 17, 2004

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is a Request for Review of the SLD Administrator's Decision on Appeal dated June 18, 2004. The appeal was in reference to the Form 471 Rejection Letter dated February 17, 2004 in which I was notified that the entire Form 471 was rejected because "The Form 471 submitted is not the correct, OMB-approved Form 471, with a date of October 2002 or later in the lower right-hand corner of the form."

My appeal is based on the fact that while the Form 471 I submitted (dated October 2000) was not the correct, OMB-approved form, the information provided was nonetheless complete and accurate. The only difference between the older form I used and the newer, approved form is that the new form has a barcode at the bottom (with the form and page number) and the Block 5 section of the new form is in a vertical rather than horizontal orientation. It appears that there is no difference of any substance between the old and new form, and that the impact on administrative costs to the SLD for expediting fair and efficient review of our application is negligible.

For the 2004 Funding Year the SLD did not provide a Form 471 in Excel format, which had been available in previous years of the E-Rate program. I made an erroneous assumption that the older Excel Form we had always used was still acceptable.

Given the budget difficulties that our school districts are now facing (the 471 application covers both the Northampton Public Schools and the Smith Vocational School) the loss of E-Rate funding because of a small, technical error would be unfair. I look forward to a positive response to this appeal.

Sincerely,

William Dornbusch, District Technology Coordinator
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Cc: Senator John Kerry, Senator Edward Kennedy, Representative John Olver

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